

## PLATE LXXXII.

## Neuration of Wings.

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| Fig.   | Fig.   |
| 1. <i>Anthobosca australis</i> Sichel. ♀.    | 9. <i>Elis (Mesa) ruficeps</i> Sm. ♀.        |
| 2. <i>Anthobosca australis</i> Sichel. ♂.    | 10. <i>Elis (Mesa) ruficeps</i> Sm. ♂.       |
| 3. <i>Anthobosca anthracina</i> Sm. ♀.       | 11. <i>Elis (Mesa) tricolor</i> Sm. ♀.       |
| 4. <i>Anthobosca erythronota</i> Cam. ♀.     | 12. <i>Elis combusta</i> Sm. ♀.              |
| 5. <i>Anthobosca clypeata</i> Sm. ♀.         | 13. <i>Myzine stigma</i> Turn. ♂.            |
| 6. <i>Anthobosca insularis</i> Sm. ♀.        | 14. <i>Myzine braunsi</i> Turn. ♂.           |
| 7. <i>Braunsomeria quadraticeps</i> Turn. ♂. | 15. <i>Myzine constrictiventris</i> Turn. ♂. |
| 8. <i>Elis (Mesa) alicie</i> Turn. ♀.        | 16. <i>Myzine abdominalis</i> Guér. ♀.       |

## PLATE LXXXIII.

## Exoskeletal Structures.

- Fig. 1. *Anthobosca australis* Sichel. ♀. Suture between two basal abdominal segments.
2. *Elis (Mesa) ruficeps* Sm. ♀. Suture between two basal abdominal segments.
3. *Anthobosca australis* Sichel. ♂. Apical ventral segment.
4. *Elis (Mesa) ruficeps* Sm. ♂. Apical dorsal segment.
5. *Myzine abdominalis* Guér. ♂.
6. *Anthobosca australis* Sichel. ♀. "Tarsal unguis."
7. *Anthobosca clypeata* Sm. ♀. " " "
8. *Anthobosca insularis* Sm. ♀. "Intermediate and hind coxæ."
9. *Elis (Mesa) alicie* Turn. ♀. Basal joint of hind tarsus.
10. *Elis (Mesa) ruficeps* Sm. ♀. " " "
11. *Elis (Mesa) longiventris* Turn. ♂. Two basal segments of abdomen.
12. *Myzine constrictiventris* Turn. ♂. " " "
13. *Anthobosca australis* Guér. ♂. " " "
14. *Anthobosca australis* Sichel. ♂. " " "
15. *Elis (Mesa) ruficeps* Sm. ♂. " " "
16. *Elis (Mesa) ruficeps* Sm. ♀. Intermediate and hind coxæ.

## 40. Notes on the Spanish Ibex.

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In Professor Angel Cabrera's most informative paper on *Capra pyrenaica*,\* two small points occur to me as worthy of brief comment. In discussing the present distribution of the Spanish Wild-Goat in some six isolated colonies, Dr. Cabrera takes exception to the remark in 'Unexplored Spain' (by Walter Buck, C.M.Z.S., and myself) that they had been so isolated "during ages." Well, the term used in our former book ('Wild Spain') was "during centuries," and that is certainly more definitive and probably more accurate. Dr. Cabrera, however, goes on to state that there exist "strong reasons for believing that in the past

\* P. Z. S. 1911, n. 963.

[inferentially as late as the middle of the seventeenth century—say 250 years ago] Ibex inhabited every suitable point of almost every mountain-ridge in Spain.” The only reason actually adduced, however, is the prevalence of place-names based upon, or compounded with, the Spanish word *Cabra* = goat. Such names, it is true, are ubiquitous; but it would never have occurred to me that those names necessarily refer to the *wild* goat. Spain is a land of goats, and many localities bearing names such as Sierra de las Cabras, Cabrales, Cebrero, and so on, are not at all adapted to the nature and requirements of the wild Ibex. I would suggest that, in many cases, the names merely indicate the existence of suitable local pasturage for domestic goats, which are herded everywhere.

Again, Dr. Cabrera translates the Spanish name of the Ibex, *Cabra montés*, as equivalent to “Mountain-Goat.” Now it would be nothing less than presumptuous for me, a foreigner with but a limited colloquial knowledge of the Spanish tongue, to question his rendering. I do not do so. I accept that as the pure classic Castilian of Madrid. But I do venture to say that, in wilder Spain, the term *monte*, with its derivative adjective *montés* (pronounced *montéss*), possesses quite a different signification. *Monte* may occasionally, and in combination, be used to indicate a hill or mountain; but in its ordinary provincial sense, it signifies scrub or brushwood. Thus the wild-cat, which is equally common on lowland or sierra, is known as *Gato montés* = Scrub-Cat: on the low-lying plains of Andalucía or Estremadura, the expression *Reses monteses* includes all the scrub-haunting animals—such as deer, wild-boar, lynx, etc.

Now, viewed in this light, it has always appeared to me utterly inexplicable and incongruous to apply the name *Cabra montés*, or Scrub-Goat, to the Ibex of the higher ranges, such as the Sierras de Grédos and Nevada, where the Ibex live exclusively amidst rock-regions far above the topmost levels of scrub. But such incongruity would disappear if Dr. Cabrera’s assumption were correct, that the Ibex, up to a couple of centuries ago, occupied the whole vast area shown in the map at p. 965, *suprà*. Was such the distribution, that name would become appropriate enough, since an immense proportion of the dotted area consists, not of high mountains at all, but of low scrub-clad hills. Such country might appear, to preconceived ideas, totally unsuitable for Ibex: but we have the fact before us (as fully explained in our books on Spain) that in several of the lower Mediterranean sierras (some of which are bush-clad to the summits) the local Ibex do to-day take kindly to a bush-haunting habit. Indeed, in such situations, it is obvious, they have no other option.

This latter point tends to support Dr. Cabrera’s assumption, and equally, of course, undermines our own.

In our two books we had pointed out that the Ibex of the two extreme ends of Spain (*i. e.*, those of the Pyrenees and those of

the Mediterranean sierras) most nearly assimilated to each other in their more flattened and laterally compressed horns\*. It is gratifying to find that our rough field-observations are now corroborated by Dr. Cabrera's skilled investigation and careful cross-sections. But again, it appears anomalous—assuming that complete isolation only commenced some two centuries ago—that the central group (now honoured with subspecific rank as *C. p. victorice*) should have developed the greater difference.

The females and young males of the Spanish Ibex are devoid of the dark dorsal stripe, as is correctly shown in the plate in 'Unexplored Spain,' at p. 140. They are of a dun-brown, unicolorous in coat as the Spanish Red-Deer; but Dr. Cabrera is quite justified in criticizing the second plate (*op. cit.* p. 967), at p. 216. That slip should be debited, in the first instance, to the artist, Mr. E. Caldwell, but the fault is wholly mine, since I should have detected the mistake and had it corrected before passing the drawing for reproduction.

If permissible to express an opinion on the three beautiful plates given by Dr. Cabrera, I would say that *in life* the Spanish Ibex is rounder and bulkier in the barrel than can ever be gathered from museum specimens, since skins shrink.

In conclusion, may I express a fervent hope (since interest in her vanishing Ibex has been aroused in Spain) that further protection may be extended to the few surviving colonies? Within my own time, Ibex have been exterminated in several of their earlier haunts. To-day they are at their last gasp in the Pyrenees and in the Gerez (Portugal). Fortunately, in Grédos, Morena, and Bermeja, their future has been assured—though only at the eleventh hour. Can our Spanish friends not see to safeguarding the much-menaced remnant that yet survives on the main chain of Nevada?

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\* Unfortunately, in 'Unexplored Spain,' in an effort to be concise, and to avoid repetition, we omitted the word "laterally"; but a reference to 'Wild Spain,' p. 129, makes our meaning clear.